

DRAFT Meeting Summary
Alaska Criminal Justice Data Analysis Commission
December 10, 2024
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Conference Room and Zoom

Chair Matt Claman called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. Members present were Lt. Jean Achee (Zoom), Alison Biastock (Heather Phelps), Sen. Matt Claman, Alex Cleghorn, Terrence Haas, Ret. Judge David Mannheimer, Judge Kari McCrea, Brenda Stanfill, Ret. Judge Trevor Stephens, April Wilkerson (Zoom), and Capt. Brian Wilson. Members absent were James Cockrell, Tracy Dompeling, John Skidmore, and Rep. Sarah Vance.

Staff present were Susanne DiPietro, Brian Brossmer, Teri Carns, and Susie Dosik.

Adopt Agenda

Mr. Cleghorn moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Ms. Stanfill seconded the motion, and members approved it without objection.

Approve October 21, 2024 meeting summary

Ms. Stanfill moved to approve the October 21, 2024 meeting summary. Ms. Phelps seconded the motion, and members approved it without objections.

Public Comment Period

Chair Claman opened the meeting to public comment at 10:10 a.m. There were no public comments, and the Chair closed the public comment period at 10:32 a.m. He noted that the commission receives public comment at any time on its website.

DAC 2025 Research Agenda

Facilitator Gwen Kenndy assisted members in a review of existing DAC statutory research requirements, on-going and completed projects, and proposed new projects, to develop a research agenda for the commission for 2025.

Following the discussion, the proposed research agenda included:

- *Report on Domestic Violence Cases in the Alaska State Courts*—Staff has been working to make significant revisions to this report as requested by the commissioners, in time for the review at the February 20, 2025 meeting. The current timeline is to publish the revised report in the spring of 2025.

It was discussed that crimes involving domestic violence are an important ongoing area of concern for the criminal justice system, so after the current report is concluded additional research should be considered. Topics brought forward for future consideration were:

An exploration of what portion of cases involving a DV flag involve a defendant and victim who are or were intimate partners, and which of the crimes involved violence; and

Information about how many cases involve charges for violation of a civil protective order, when the underlying order was issued by a tribal court.

- *Studies of (1) pretrial practices and (2) reasons for delays in case dispositions* – Staff are collecting the necessary data from electronic and paper files (paper and scanned). Assuming the necessary files can be timely accessed, data collection should be finished later this spring, with analysis and review to follow, and a goal of completion in time to include in the next annual report on November 1, 2025.

Members discussed the impact of Anchorage’s pre-indictment hearing structure on case delay. It was mentioned that some court locations use a calendaring process in which criminal “trial weeks” occur only once a month, and that could contribute to the length of continuances.

Members wondered how the creation of PED might have impacted pretrial release outcomes.

- *Information about victims of crime* – About 20 agencies and organizations that work with or encounter crime victims have been asked to help the Commission understand what data are kept that would shed light on the experiences and needs of victims of crime. About half of the agencies have responded, and so far all are willing to cooperate. The next step will be to obtain detailed information from them about what data they keep and what format it is kept in. At the end of this process, the Commission will have a better idea of the type of information that could be known about victims of crime, and how anonymized data about victims’ needs and

experiences might be collected, analyzed, and shared. This project is multi-year, and the goal for 2025 will be to have designed a system for data collection and analysis.

Staff also will monitor Alaska's ongoing implementation of the National Incident-Based Reporting System, including what information about victims is included in that system, and whether DPS or another agency will be analyzing and reporting aggregate victim-related information.

Members also discussed the Alaska Victim Survey (a survey of non-institutionalized, English-speaking, adult women in Alaska about their recent and lifetime experiences with intimate partner violence). The 2025 AVS is being developed now, with results expected by mid-2026.

- *Competency and Restoration* -- Members agreed that the 2025 Annual Report should include updated information about numbers and status of competency cases, crisis center and response updates, and information about new institutional capacities for handling competency and restoration issues. The report should also include any available information about civil commitment petitions filed in cases where a criminal defendant is deemed not competent and not restorable.

Ms. Phelps said that the MHTA would be interested in information about criminal defendants with developmental disabilities involved in competency assessments.

- *Reentry*—Ms. Dosik will report on the scope and activities of the existing reentry programs at the February meeting. Members will make decisions about next steps after that review.
- *Recidivism* – Ms. Wilkerson said that DOC intends to work with additional recidivism analyses in 2025 and suggested cooperating with the DAC in sharing information about their work. The DAC will continue to report on recidivism as required by its statute.
- *Online Data Resources* – Members agreed that this resource should be updated at least annually. Ms. Phelps said she had suggestions for new resources to add.
- *Glossary of Criminal Justice Terms* – members concurred that this is a helpful resource, and should be updated and made available on the DAC website. They agreed to add “Pre-indictment Hearing” to the Glossary.

- *Definitions of Common Terms* – members agreed that this is a useful undertaking, and should be pursued as time and resources permit.
- *Crime Prevention Research* – Dr. Johnson did literature reviews of existing studies; she is now at UAF Justice Center and said that she might be available to do more work with the DAC after the spring semester. Ms. Stanfill suggested scheduling a presentation from an individual or individuals working in the field of crime prevention and crime prevention research.
- *Disparity – ethnic and racial* – Mr. Cleghorn noted that the commission’s research agenda should reflect the most pressing concerns of the criminal justice system, including “the elimination of unjustified disparity”, which applies to both victims and people charged/convicted of crimes. He said that a survey of existing resources would show where communities do not have the ability to prevent or address crimes. Staff will work with Mr. Cleghorn to further develop this proposal.

Disparity – new research – Ms. Wilkerson and Dr. Myrstol, AJiC, described research on disparities among incarcerated people required by the passage of HB66, that will be done under the aegis of DOC and AFN, through a contract with AJiC. The results of the research will not be available until 2026. DAC staff will cooperate with the work as appropriate.

- Representative Andrew Gray attended the meeting. He said that he hoped to be chair of House Judiciary in the coming legislative session. He added that his constituents were interested in research about deaths in DOC custody, and police-involved shootings. Staff noted it is not clear whether these topics fall within the statutory duties of the DAC.
- Members suggested staff update information on DPS’ victim navigator program for the 2025 annual report.
- *Probation and Parole*. Members asked what supervision is exercised, and by whom, for misdemeanor probationers, and whether open court misdemeanor probation is effective. Staff proposed a *descriptive review of probation and parole* and commissioners asked staff to draft a more detailed proposal for review at the February meeting.
- Members asked for a deeper look at *restitution payments* – why they are dropping, what types of offenses have them, how often are they converted to civil judgments; it

was agreed that staff would request this information from the Alaska Court System for inclusion in the 2025 annual report.

- *Charting the legislative changes to criminal justice since 2015* and reviewing possible ways of showing their effects including the prison population reduction goals.

Next meeting, Adjourn

The DAC will meet in Juneau on February 20, 2025 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The head of the Oregon Sentencing Commission will make a presentation about Oregon's experience with de-criminalizing and re-criminalizing drugs.

The meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.